

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is respectfully requested.

The examiner on Page 5 of his office action indicated the subject matter of claim 2 as allowable. Applicants by the instant amendment have incorporated the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 2 into independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-5, all of the claims currently pending in the instant application, are now in condition for allowance.

The examiner rejected previously submitted method claims 6-23 under the judicially created Doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicants have cancelled claims 6-23 from the instant application and will file a voluntary divisional application based on claims 6-23 along with a Terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) over U.S. Patent 6,346,224, the patent document upon which the examiner's obviousness-type double patenting is based.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims in the instant application are now in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
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